

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 AID-10 PRS-01 USIA-04

EUR-10 L-02 DPW-01 RSR-01 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4506

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12584

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 11 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NAKHON
PHANOM REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

CAN THO 560

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JULY 11, 1973

SUMMARY: LIGHT MILITARY ACTION CONTINUED IN THE DELTA
JULY 9-10. KIEN HOA VC ARE REPORTEDLY SHORT ON AMMUNITION.
REGION VI GVN/JMC DOES NOT FEAR PRG DEPLOYMENT. BAC LIEU
VC ORDERED TO CONTINUE THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL STRUGGLE.
END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: KRA) MR IV BRIEFERS REPORTED
ONLY 14 ALLEGED VC/NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JULY 9. OF
THESE, 11 WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE, ONE HARASSMENT, AND TWO
TERRORIST ACTS. THESE INCIDENTS COST THE GVN NINE DEAD,
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59 WOUNDED, AND ONE MISSING. THE VC/NVA REPORTEDLY

LOST 59 KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED. (NOTE: THE JULY 11 MR IV BRIEFING WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE VISIT TO CAN THO OF GENERAL FREDERICK C. WEYAND. INCIDENT AND CASUALTY STATISTICS FOR JULY 10 WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE LATER TODAY).

(B) VC/NVA "CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS" IN DINH TUONG HAVE BEEN AVERAGING ABOUT TEN PER DAY IN JULY. 91 REPORTED INCIDENTS JULY 1-9 COST RVNAF 13 KILLED AND 86 WOUNDED. THE VC/NVA LOST 49 KILLED AND TWO CAPTURED. BOOBY TRAPS INFLICTED MOST OF THE GVN CASUALTIES. OCCASIONAL MORTARINGS AND HARASSMENTS OF GVN OUTPOSTS CONTINUE. FROM THREE TO SIX LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS OCCUR DAILY, THE MAJORITY OF THEM APPARENTLY INITIATED BY GVN ACTIVITIES.

(C) MGEN NGUYEN KHOA NAMM, COMMANDER OF THE 7TH ARVN DIVISION, RECENTLY TOLD A VICE CONSUL THAT VC TROOPS IN KIEN HOA ARE SO SHORT OF AMMUNITION THAT UNLESS UNDER ATTACK, THEY MUST OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THEIR PROVINCE COMMAND BEFORE FIRING B-40 AND B-41 ROCKETS. NAM ATTRIBUTED THE SHORTAGES TO HIS DIVISION'S SUCCESSFUL INTERDICTION OF VC/NVA SUPPLY ROUTES. NVA TROOPS IN DINH TUONG, HE SAID, GET THE LION'S SHARE OF WHAT SUPPLIES SNEAK THROUGH, AND THE KIEN HOA VC RECEIVE ONLY SCRAPS.

2. ICCS/JMC: COL NGUYEN VAN LOI, GVN/JMC CHIEF FOR ICCS REGION VI, TOLD A VISITING VICE CONSUL IN MY THO JULY 10 THAT HE HAD NO FEAR OF EVENTUAL PRG DEPLOYMENT TO HIS REGION. HE WAS CONFIDENT THE GVN COULD CONTAIN THE PRG/JMC TEAM BECAUSE THE GVN CONTROLLED RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AND AIR TRANSPORT. LOI SAID THAT IF THE ICCS INVESTIGATED ANY ALLEGED GVN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, BASED UPON PRG CHARGES, THE SITUATION WOULD FAVOR HIS GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE ICCS WOULD SEE THAT THE GVN CLEARLY CONTROLLED THE SITE OF THE INCIDENT. IF FIGHTING OCCURRED ON GVN SOIL, HE REASONED, IT COULD HARDLY BE A GVN-INITIATED VIOLATION. (COMMENT: LOI MAY BE IMPLYING THAT THE GVN WOULD COOPERATE IN INVESTIGATIONS ONLY IN AREAS CLEARLY UNDER

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ITS CONTROL. FOR EXAMPLE, IT MIGHT REFUSE TO TRANSPORT PRG/JMC PERSONNEL TO INCIDENT SITES IN VC-CONTROLLED AREAS).

3. VC ACTIVITIES: BAC LIEU SECTOR S-2 CAPT TRAN THUY LOI TOLD A VICE CONSUL JULY 4 THAT LOCAL VC HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CONTINUE THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL STRUGGLE DESPITE CEASEFIRE II. LOI SAID ONE OF HIS AGENTS

RECENTLY HAD PENETRATED A HIGH LEVEL VC MEETING IN VC
CA MAU PROVINCE (WHICH INCLUDES PART OF GVN BAC LIEU).
ACCORDING TO THE GVN AGENT, POLITICAL OFFICERS TOLD THE
VC TO CAPTURE OR NEUTRALIZE GVN OUTPOSTS NEAR VC-HELD
AREAS. THEY SAID EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON
PROSELYTIZING AND RALLYING GVN SOLDIERS IN THE OUTPOSTS
TO THE VC CAUSE. SIGNED LEHMANN
UNQUOTE APPLING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON12584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LEHMANN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730737/aaaabbjw.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITREP FOR JULY 11,1973 SUMMARY: LIGHT MILITARY ACTION CONTINUED IN THE DELTA
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005